



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND
5722 INTEGRITY DR.
MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE 38054-5057

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FEB 24 2010

The Honorable Leonard Lance
Member, United States House of
Representatives
23 Royal Road, Suite 101
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

Dear Mr. Lance:

This is in reply to your facsimile of February 8, 2010 concerning Dr. Sanford Fineman's desire for appointment/commissioning in the Navy's Medical Corps.

Dr. Fineman's desire to serve in the Navy's Medical Corps is understood and appreciated. Unfortunately, he is not physically qualified for appointment/commissioning.

For your and your constituent's information, physical standards establish uniformity in conducting physical examinations and in interpreting physical fitness of candidates for Naval Service. The object is to select and retain personnel who are physically fit and temperamentally adaptable to the conditions of military life. Standards preclude from acceptance those individuals with contagious or infectious disease who would be likely to endanger the health of other personnel; those who are likely to require repeated admissions to the sick list, prolonged hospitalization, or invaliding from service; and those who present any condition that would be likely to form the basis of a claim for physical retirement benefits. The standards, therefore, are intended to define a degree of physical fitness in applicants that best meets the Navy's needs and yet incur an acceptable minimum of risk of liability in regard to health hazards, repeated or prolonged medical care or hospitalization, assignment problems, and eventual pension or retirement benefits.

Due to the nature of military life, physical conditions which may not be serious in a civilian environment could be disabling to a service member. To authorize Dr. Fineman's appointment/commissioning in the Navy would expose him to increased risk or injury.

The Navy recognizes that the services of highly motivated applicants are lost due to physically disqualifying conditions. However, adherence to the established physical standards serves to protect the interests of the individual as well as those of the Navy.

Thank you for bringing your constituent's concerns to our attention. We regret that this reply cannot be in consonance with Dr. Fineman's desires, but trust it will be of assistance in responding to him.

Sincerely,

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A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of the official.

Head, Congressional and
Special Inquiries Branch
Office of the Inspector General
By direction of the Commander

Copy to:

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